



North Downtown Master Plan Community Engagement Summary

Project Description

This was the last of four CE sessions that was carried out prior to taking the completed Master Plan to City Council for approval. The CE was conducted to show the community the completed Master Plan and to hear feedback prior to asking City Council for approval.

Community Engagement Strategy

The purpose of this session was to inform the public about the proposed Master Plan, and to illustrate how the previous comments have been integrated into the final plan. 20 large-scale boards were set up around the room explaining the aspects of the Plan. Two presentations were made at 3:30 and at 6:00 pm. Questions were answered by the presenters and Brenda Wallace, one on one, by the Boards. Participants could share their thoughts with the City's team or complete a feedback sheet.

Notification was given in numerous ways. The project manager contacted approximately 350 people from a list of previous participants and stakeholders that have indicated interest in the project. An advertisement was placed in the City Page of the Star Phoenix the weekend before the event. A mail-out to properties within the study area as well as adjacent communities was sent out approximately 2 weeks prior to the event. Approximately 8,000 flyers were distributed by Canada Post.

Summary of Community Engagement Feedback

98 people attended the session, approximately 70 people for the first presentation and the remainder for the second.

Connections

- Like accommodation for pedestrians and cyclists
- Like narrow streets
- It will be difficult to remove perceptions of railway division
- Make public transport, walking and bicycle attractive to people who live there
- Like bike lanes
- One property owner expressed a desire to see the pedestrian pathway running east-west, on the south side of Oshun, upgraded to a full roadway,

"How does the existing bike network tie into the greenway?"

"Is a 7.5% grade on the land bridge too steep to easily get up, especially for older adults?"

"How does cycling infrastructure match with what was planned for the City Centre Plan?"



“There are some issues regarding the use of the land at P&H and Horizon. These are supplied and ship by heavy truck. The connecting roadway between 33rd and 29th is partly on private property and will change traffic patterns. There is potential conflict with the truck traffic servicing the Mills. One plan shows pedestrian and bike paths through the Mills property. This is not practical from a safety and food safety perspective with the Mills in operation.”

“Direct along South side of the park for bikes. Caswell Hill to U of S. Must make cycling routes direct if people are going to use them.”

Parking

- Consider limiting cars in residential areas. Passing through OK, but limit ownership for residents
- Loss of a future parking opportunity along the CN line for a land owner on was problematic.

Amenities

- Grocery Store (2)
- Like Green space / park (3)
- Would like to see Community Activities

“Coffee shops and local businesses would be great”

“There are opportunities to include retail shops facing onto the greenway.”

“the community garden should be more centrally located with opportunities to plant on the bridge”

“Love the high amount of green space options.”

“Trees – average life-span of urban trees is 10 years. What will be done to help the trees grow to maturity?”

Winter City

“The Park Bridge is a great idea and would become a landmark in the city. I would encourage more coniferous trees to provide wind shelter (and possible snow control) in the colder months. I understand the trees can cause a security issue as you cannot see as easily but it even one row of coniferous can provide more shelter. President Murray park has students from elementary and university cutting through the park even in fresh snow falls because it provides more shelter than the open sidewalk. Also the coniferous green belt along the student housing and Griffiths is widely used because again it provides shelter and the trees create a beautiful space.”



“1.5 meter snow storage is too small. I often walk and drive through areas near Caswell Hill and also Bedford Road. The roads are narrower in these areas with little room for snow storage. I have seen people trying to shovel their sidewalk but they have nowhere to put their snow as the banks are too high. They cannot physically get the snow up higher and it starts to fall onto the sidewalks – people give up. Snow removal would have to be part of the plan, even if it was to a central location to become a snow hill.”

Land use and density

- Concerns with high density rentals – preference for ownership
- Concerns about growing to 500,000 people

“Would love to see affordable housing provision”

“Glad to see a plan that embraces our heritage: Mills and warehouses.”

“Mixed-income housing?”

“... mixed-use and how much retail space is actually viable. It is always surprising how little retail should be a part of the mix – they are needed but also need to be successful. It was great to see one developer’s comments that mixed use means community services integrated such as what LEED identifies as Community Amenities; post office, hair salon, café, etc.”

Sustainability

- Like to see green initiatives, solar panels, etc.

“Love to see sustainability at core strategy including district energy, eco-homes, urban agriculture.”

“One problem with growing a city like Saskatoon in such a harsh climate is the large energy footprint required. This is a city that requires an enormous amount of fossil fuels at a time when we should be reducing our CO2 generation. In the future the cost of heating will become too expensive to maintain a liveable city as fossil fuels become more expensive.”

Timing

- 2 landowners expressed a need to know more about implementation timing and to be kept up to date, because they have plans for renovation of their properties.

General:

“Looking like you have a great idea in store. Hope to see it getting off the ground soon! ☺”

“Very impressive.”



"The presentation was excellent, very clear and easy to understand."

"Exciting to see such a lively neighbourhood plan!"

"Overall, looks like a great plan that has paid good attention of all modes of transportation (moving away from car-centric) and for developing unique sense of place and community gathering opportunities."

"Overall I am impressed with the way that the project has developed. The team has listened to concerns and comments and I can see that these have been taken into consideration. I like the concept and plan as presented."

"I like the plan, green spaces and content. Hopefully we will see this progress and develop."

"The presentation was very good last night – very informative and not too long which is always appreciated. It is an exciting project and hopefully will get started soon."

"Again, it is exciting and I can't wait for the green belt to be started so I have a place to walk to so I can enjoy my lunch outside!"

Next Steps

This is the last community engagement session prior to taking the final plan to City Council. This report will be attached to the final report and posted on the North Downtown and Shaping Saskatoon web pages.

Prepared by:

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June 12, 2014



North Downtown Master Plan Community Event Evaluation

Number of respondents (18)

How did you hear about this event?

Flyer (7)

Star Phoenix (2)

Facebook (1)

Twitter (3)

City Blog (3)

Email notice from Community Association (2)

Other:

- COS email from Project Manager (5)
- Through work
- Friend
- *"Looked in the Star Phoenix but couldn't find the notice"*

Was the information easy to understand?

Yes (16)

- *"It was helpful to see other cities as an example of the development"*
- *"Well presented display boards – a lot of information to absorb."*

No (1)

- *"Too many acronyms on the posters." (2)*

Did you feel that you had an opportunity to share your opinions?

Yes (16)

I spoke with staff in attendance (9)

Submitted written comment form (7)

Posted my comments on the comment board

Other:

- *"Provided comments at earlier conversations"*
- *"Had the opportunity but didn't need to use it."*
- *"Will send comments via email"*

No (0)

Shaping Saskatoon



Please comment on facility chosen for the event:

- *"TCU is fine."*
- *"Good"*
- *"Perfect, plenty of parking, good environment."*
- *"Good, central location."*
- *"Happy with the proposal"*
- *"Just fine."*

- *"TCU is an excellent facility for the meeting as I thought it had enough space and is conveniently located."*
- *"Closer to the streetfront – easier to access / attract passerbys."*
- *"Worked well."*
- *"Good" (2)*
- *"It was very cool and drafty during the presentation. TCU Place needs more bike racks."*
- *"It was fine. Noise from corridor during presentation."*
- *"Good location. A bit chilly."*
- *"Great."*

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